

Moving Sale: Man Saves Home from Demolition

House pulled from Bay Road
to Winthrop Avenue

By MORAG MACLACHLAN

"Would anyone like a muffin or a Gatorade?" Alex Escott asked.

Several men took Escott up on his offer seeking fuel for the long day ahead. Dozens of crews and neighbors lined Bay Road early Friday morning to either work on or watch as a home at 549 Bay Road was pulled down the street and over a neighbor's farmland to its new address at 30 Winthrop Avenue.

The traveling home belongs to Escott. He said he had been looking for a home to move to the Winthrop Avenue location for months. He previously had a deal going with a homeowner on Pilgrim Byway. But when that home was deemed immobile, Escott made his request public again.

"People knew I was looking for a house to move," Escott said. "I had about five people call me."

Escott settled on Clark and Jane Hinkley's home at 549 Bay Road. He said the homeowners planned on demolishing the structure and rebuilding.

"I'm saving a house," Escott said.

And his house - saving endeavor did not go unnoticed. Beginning at 8 a.m. on Friday, crews from NSTAR, Verizon and Bay State Gas began arriving to ensure the safety of the workers moving the house and the neighbors along Bay Road. Police details blocked the road to traffic traveling away from Hall's Corner down Bay Road from the intersection of Bay Road and Bryant Street and drivers heading north on Bay Road from the Kingston area.

Deputy Fire Chief Chris West and Director of Inspectional Services Scott Lambiase were both on scene as well. Escott said in addition to securing permits from the town's building department, he spoke with Tree Warden Peter Butkus about cutting or trimming trees that hindered the move.

"I also had to contact each of the neighbors this would affect well in advance and then call all of them yesterday to remind them," Escott said Friday morning.

Neighbors seemed intrigued with the process...many sitting outside in lawn chairs to watch the home be pulled from the lot



Alex Escott gives the project two thumbs up as the home he saved from demolition on Bay Road is moved to his lot on Winthrop Avenue.

they were used to seeing it on and into the road. Richard Peterson of 544 Bay Road took pictures of the house as it came out of the trees and into the road right in front of his home.

"Welcome to the neighborhood," Peterson said to Escott.

Perhaps the most supportive neighbors to the project were Susan and Scott Roy of 530 and 536 Bay Road. Their property sits on Bay Road, but is also kitty corner to Winthrop Avenue. Permission to travel across their property saved Escott from having to have the home dragged down Bay Road, up Bryant Avenue and then over onto Winthrop. This path would have been extremely tricky since Bryant and Winthrop streets are thickly settled.

"It looked like the only option for him," Scott Roy said on Tuesday. "It was all done on Friday like they promised. Duxbury Construction did a remarkable job."

Escott said it cost him \$16,000 to move the home. This fee covered the building department's relocation permit. He declined to divulge how much he paid to build the foundation on Winthrop and to ready the home to be lifted off its Bay Road foundation. He did say that he is excited to move into his new house and will add an addition to the structure once the building department double-checks the home after it is placed on the foundation. Moving into the house should be relatively easy compared to moving the home. Escott got a jump start on this process by leaving furniture and sliding glass doors inside the home as it plodded along Bay Road to its final destination.